



## **Colonial Pipeline CR251 Rupture Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama Situation Report #5**

**November 4, 2016**

**1800**

**NRC #1162982**

### **INCIDENT DESCRIPTION**

On October 31 at 1455 hours, a Colonial Pipeline contractor struck a 36" below ground transmission gasoline pipeline (Line 1) while finishing a permanent repair necessitated by the previous pipeline rupture that occurred on September 9. The gasoline pipeline exploded and caught fire. At 1656 hours, Colonial Pipeline reported the incident to the National Response Center. One worker was fatally injured and six workers were transported to local hospitals.

The exact amount of the release is unknown; however, Colonial Pipeline has estimated that between 3,300 and 4,000 barrels of gasoline were released. Both main pipelines were shut down. The local fire department responded and contained the fire around the ruptured site. The Alabama Forestry Commission and Shelby County Highway Department constructed an earthen berm to contain the gasoline and cut a fire break. Line 2 was restarted at 2250 hours on October 31 at a reduced rate.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), Shelby County EMA, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Interior (DOI) Region 4, were notified. The EPA, ADEM, Colonial Pipeline, and local emergency responders are on scene and have integrated into Unified Command (UC).

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**ONGOING:** The PIO continues to coordinate press releases with Colonial Pipeline through the JIC.

**NEW:** The NTSB assessment has transitioned to a full investigation. NTSB communications restrictions are being implemented due to the incident investigation.

### **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING**

EPAs integration into the Colonial Pipeline Incident Command structure will provide numerous benefits to the response and further ensure operations run successfully. This will be accomplished through working directly with the Environmental Unit on sampling and monitoring, the Situation Unit, the Planning Section, safety, Unified Command, and with overall operations related to this unfortunate incident. All EPA staff, USCG GST and support contractors are fully embedded into the Colonial Pipeline incident management structure. The number of personnel managing the incident is as follows:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Number</b>
EPA	6 (1 working from R4 REOC)
USCG GST	4
START	4
Total Response Personnel	580

## **CURRENT RELEASE AND RECOVERY ESTIMATES**

Current Release Estimate remains unchanged at 3,300 bbl to 4,000 bbls<sup>1</sup>

**NEW:** The fire was extinguished at approximately 0438 hours on November 4, 2016. The fire was extinguished using Thunderstorm F601B<sup>2</sup> which is a PFOA and PFOS free foam.

**NEW:** Product is being drained from the “main drain” at TORs 3 and 4. Initial pressures at the recovery point were measured at approximately 7 psi, however, pressures are variable and are anticipated to decrease rapidly based on the limited volume of product remaining in the pipeline.

**NEW:** Containment measures have been installed at all of the TORs and around the fractionation “frac” tanks being used for product storage. Based on the limited volume of product remaining in the pipeline, boom and containment measures are being removed from the Cahaba River, while the earthen dams and nearby containment measures remain in place.

## **REPORTING SCHEDULE**

Situation Reports (SITREPS) will be delivered daily at 1800 hours EDT.

## **CURRENT OPERATIONS**

### **1) Environmental Sampling and Impacts**

#### **a. Air Monitoring**

- **ONGOING:** CTEH continues conducting air monitoring at the frac tank staging area and TORs during recovery efforts.
- **ONGOING:** CTEH continues performing 24-hour mobile air monitoring at and near the incident area, as well as at nearby homes to the northwest and southeast of the incident area. Air monitoring results from 0600 hours CDT on November 3, through 0600 hours CDT on November 4 indicated no detections above site action levels, except for particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less (PM2.5). Air monitoring results indicated spikes in the PM2.5 worker (1.22 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) action levels near the incident area and near the residences (0.138 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) located southeast of the incident area. **NEW:** Effective at 0800 on November 4, CTEH will discontinue air monitoring in the outlying

<sup>1</sup> 1 barrel (bbl) = 42 gallons

<sup>2</sup> Reference: [http://www.williamsfire.com/Files/Product%20Spotlights/Foam%20Pages/F601B\\_TDS.pdf](http://www.williamsfire.com/Files/Product%20Spotlights/Foam%20Pages/F601B_TDS.pdf)

communities based on previous non-detect results. Mobile air monitoring will continue at and near the incident area and at nearby homes to the northwest and southeast of the incident area.

- **UPDATE:** CTEH conducted air monitoring during preparation for product recovery at the “main drain”, TORs 3 and 4. Air monitoring results indicated that lower explosive limits (LEL) exceeded 4%, a benzene exceedance of 0.7 at a TOR location and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) did not exceed the health based action levels (300 ppm).
  - **NEW:** CTEH began focusing air monitoring efforts on LEL, benzene and VOCs since the fire was extinguished early this morning.
  - **ONGOING:** CTEH continued analytical air sampling at five locations near the homes located northwest (Bent Pine Drive) and southeast of the incident area along County Road 251.
  - **ONGOING:** CTEH continues to upload air sampling data to the SCRIBE database.
- b. Water/Sediment Sampling and National Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA)
- Environmental Planning Specialists (EPS) initiated another round of surface water sampling on November 4, including locations along the Cahaba River, Shades Creek, and the pond located southeast of the incident area.
  - EPS initiated well water sampling activities at homes near the incident area. The EPA will not be splitting well water samples with EPS. Shelby County and ADEM have primary jurisdiction with respect to public health.

## 2) Local Response Actions

- **NEW:** A red flag fire watch was issued, including the incident area, due to wind conditions (10 to 15 mph, gusts up to 20 mph) and low humidity.
- The air space restriction to 1,500 feet and a 1.5 mile radius around the incident area remains in effect until 0000 hours on November 7, 2016.

## 3) Health and Safety

- CTEH continues to conduct air monitoring and address health and safety concerns during response activities.
- USCG Gulf Strike Team representatives continue to provide health and safety oversight of response operations.

#### 4) Communications

- **NEW:** NTSB communications requirements are being implemented for parties involved in the incident investigation. EPA continues to coordinate press releases with Colonial Pipeline through the JIC.

#### 5) Fuel Supply

- No change in the waiver status

### **PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

- Complete one additional round of split sampling of water and sediment with EPS.
- Continue product recovery from Line 1 in preparation for replacement of the damaged section at the incident area.
- Begin excavation along the pipeline at the incident area in preparation for the replacement of the damaged section.
- CTEH will continue air monitoring and sampling. USCG will continue air monitoring.
- Complete and approve the Transition Plan for moving from emergency to removal phase.
- Continue preparing and releasing updates for the media outlets.



Figure 1.  
The frac tank storage area.





Figure 2.  
The release area and TOR locations (looking to the northeast).



Figure 3.  
The release area, TOR locations, and workers (looking to the northeast).